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Diana T Fritz 05/24/2007 04:57:29 PM From DB/Inbox: Search Results

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SIPDIS
TELEGRAM

March 02, 2003

To: No Action Addressee
Action: Unknown
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 1031 - UNKNOWN)
TAGS: OIIP, KMDR
Captions: None
Subject: MEDIA REACTION: ARAB SUMMIT UAE PLAN FOR IRAQ
Ref: None

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 01031

SIPDIS
CXABU:
ACTION: PAO
INFO: ECON POL AMB DCM
Laser1:
ACTION: PAO

DISSEMINATION: PAO
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: DCM:RALBRIGHT
DRAFTED: PAO:AHOSHAN
CLEARED: PAO:TPONCE

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OO RUEHC RUENAAA RUEKJCS RUEHZM RUEHLO RUEHFR
RHRMDAB RUCJACC RUCQSOC
DE RUEHAD #1031/01 0611426
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 021426Z MAR 03
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8645
RUENAAA/SECNAV WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEHZM/GCC COLLECTIVE
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0583
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0645
RHRMDAB/COMUSNAVCENT
RUCJACC/USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL//CCPA//
RUCQSOC/USCINCSOC MACDILL AFB FL//PA//

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ABU DHABI 001031

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STATE FOR NEA/ARP, NEA/PPD, NEA/RA; INR
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA
USCINCCENT FOR POLAD
LONDON FOR GOLDRICH; PARIS FOR O'FRIEL

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: OIIP KMDR TC
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: ARAB SUMMIT UAE PLAN FOR IRAQ

¶1. SUMMARY: THE ARAB SUMMIT IN SHARM EL-SHEIKH RECEIVED PRIMARY AND EXTENSIVE COVERAGE IN THE LOCAL MEDIA. NEWS REPORTING AND EDITORIALS CRITICIZED THE ARAB SUMMIT FOR NOT INCLUDING SHEIKH ZAYID'S PLAN FOR IRAQ IN ITS FINAL RESOLUTION. EDITORIALS CRITICIZED THE ARAB LEADERS FOR NOT CONSIDERING OR DEBATING

SHEIKH ZAYID'S PLAN FOR IRAQ AS A POSSIBLE WAY OUT OF THE CURRENT IMPASSE. AN "AL KHALEEJ" EDITORIAL STRONGLY CRITICIZED SECRETARY POWELL'S REQUEST OF THE ARAB SUMMIT TO ADVISE SADDAM TO SEEK EXILE AS A SHAMELESS DIPLOMATIC PLOY. END SUMMARY.

¶2. CRITICIZING ARAB ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE UAE'S INITIATIVE FOR IRAQ PRESENTED TO THE ARAB SUMMIT, ABU DHABI-BASED SEMI-GOVERNMENT "AL-ITTIHAD" EDITORIALIZED ON 3/02:

"... ZAYED ADVISED THE ARAB LEADERS OF THE EXPECTED EARTHQUAKE, AND, WHILE IN DIRE NEED OF COUNSEL, THEY HAVE BEEN NEGLECTING ALL ADVICE DURING THE PREVIOUS DECADES, NOT REALIZING THE GRAVE CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR ACTIONS, WHICH CAUSED ALL (PREVIOUS) CRISES IN THE FIRST PLACE ..."

¶3. REMARKING ON THE DECISIONS MADE AT AND THE U.S. ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE ARAB SUMMIT, SHARJAH-BASED PAN-ARAB "AL KHALEEJ" EDITORIALIZED ON 3/02:

"... GIVEN THE U.S. ATTITUDE OVERLOOKING THE INTERNATIONAL ANTI-WAR MOOD, AND ITS INSISTANCE ON CHANGING THE FACTS AS A JUSTIFICATION FOR ITS ATTACKS, IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THEY WILL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE DECISIONS MADE BY AN ARAB SUMMIT IN SHARM AL SHEIKH, WHILE REALIZING THAT THE ARABS WERE NEVER SERIOUS ABOUT ANY OF THEIR DECISIONS?"

¶4. COMMENTING ON THE UAE'S INITIATIVE ANNOUNCED TO THE ARAB SUMMIT, ABU DHABI-BASED PAN-ARAB DAILY "AKHBAR AL ARAB" EDITORIALIZED ON 3/02:

"... THE UAE'S INITIATIVE CALLING ON SADDAM TO STEP DOWN AND LEAVE IRAQ WITH INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEES TO PROTECT HIS DIGNITY IS A PRICE THAT SHOULD BE PAID TO AVERT WAR AND IS THE CHEAPEST PRICE TO SAVE THE PEOPLE, THE COUNTRY, AND THE WHOLE REGION. THE CONSEQUENCES OF ANY OTHER CHOICE ARE WELL-KNOWN BECAUSE THE U.S. IS DETERMINED ON PLAYING TO THE VERY END TO TOPPLE THE IRAQI REGIME."

¶5. COMMENTING ON THE ARAB SUMMIT AND THE AMERICAN DISDAIN FOR IT, "AL KHALEEJ" EDITORIALIZED ON 3/01:

"... THE IRAQIS ARE THREATENED BY ANOTHER 'TRANSFER' WHEN DISCUSSING THE EFFECTS OF THE ANTICIPATED BUSH-BLAIR WAR THAT COULD LEAD TO THE EMIGRATION OF TWO MILLION IRAQIS. ACCORDING TO STATISTICS, IT MIGHT ALSO CAUSE THE DEATHS AND INJURIES OF ANOTHER MILLION AS A RESULT OF THE AMERICAN PLANS TO BOMB IRAQ WITH THOUSANDS OF MISSILES. THE WHITE HOUSE IS PLANNING ON TRANSFORMING IRAQ FROM AN ARAB COUNTRY INTO AN AMERICAN TERRITORY IN THE HEART OF THE ARAB WORLD AND THEN APPLYING THIS "MODEL" IN THE REGION ... THE LEAST THAT COULD BE SAID ABOUT THE INSTRUCTIONS SUBMITTED TO THE ARAB SUMMIT BY COLIN POWELL, U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE, IS THAT IT REPRESENTS A SHAMELESS DIPLOMATIC

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PLOY TO IMPOSE CERTAIN OPINIONS ON THE SUMMIT. THIS MUST URGE THE ARABS TO TAKE A STRONG STAND IN THE SUMMIT FOLLOWING U.S. DISDAIN OF ARABS AND ANYTHING THEY REPRESENT ... THE SUMMIT IS REQUESTED TO ASSERT TO THE U.S. THAT THE ARABS HAVE REACHED A POINT WHERE THEY KNOW WHAT WORKS BEST FOR THEM. WHAT IS REQUIRED IS A UNIFIED ARAB ATTITUDE AND NOT A RAMBLING STAND FED BY THE U.S. TO ACHIEVE ITS GOALS AND THOSE OF ISRAEL. WITHOUT THIS, THE CHANCE WILL BE LOST, JUST AS OTHERS BEFORE IT, AND THERE WILL BE NO NEED FOR ANY SUMMITS SINCE THE U.S. WILL BE POSITIONED IN THE ARAB REGION CONTROLLING EVERYTHING. THE CURRENT IRAQI CRISIS, AFTER THE PALESTINIAN CRISIS, WILL PAVE THE WAY FOR FURTHER CRISES IN THE REGION."

¶6. NOTING SADDAM'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE ANTICIPATED WAR, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF "AL-BAYAN" KHALED MUHAMMAD AHMAD WROTE ON 3/01:

"... AT A TIME WHEN THE WHOLE WORLD, AND THE ARAB WORLD IN PARTICULAR, IS BUSY WITH THE ANTICIPATED U.S. WAR AGAINST IRAQ, IRAQI NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED 'SADDAM'S ORDERS' TO HIGHLY RANKED OFFICIALS AND SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS TO LOSE WEIGHT OR ELSE LOSE PART OF THEIR WAGES AND OTHER PRIVILEGES ... SADDAM HAS PUSHED THE ARABS INTO MANY WARS; THE WAR WITH IRAN WHICH ENDED WITH IRAQ'S DEFEAT, AND 'THE MOTHER OF ALL BATTLES' WHICH ENDED WITH THE COMPLETE COLLAPSE OF IRAQ. HOW DOES SADDAM WANT TO END

THIS THIRD WAR, WHICH SEEMS VERY IMMINENT? ARABS ARE HELPLESS
AND ARE EVEN UNABLE TO STOP IT!!"

WAHBA